

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

AFCS PRIORITY

CSAF PRIORIKTY

CSA PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

OSD/ISA/FMRA PRIORITY

ARMISH MAAG TEHRAN PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 225308

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR/ACOM/IR

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION

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REF: A. TEHRAN 7450 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 190374 (NOTAL)

EUCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
USAFE ALSO FOR POLAD
AREUR ALSO FOR POLAD
NAVEUR ALSO FOR POLAD
CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD

1. WE UNDERSTAND AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROBLEMS OUTLINED REFTTEL, AND WE HOPE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES WILL HELP TO EASE YOUR CONCERN.

2. WE RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURANCE THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BE CERTAIN TO PROCEED BEFORE YOU CARRY PROPOSAL TO HIGHEST LEVEL. AIR FORCE HAS ON HAND OR ON PROCUREMENT NOW, WITH FUNDS ALREADY APPROPRIATED, MINIMUM EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR SUCH A STATION. AIR FORCE PLANS TO PROCURE WITH FUNDS IN APPROVED, BUT NOT YET APPROPRIATED, FY 75 PROGRAM ABOUT 1.5 MILLION DOLS. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF A FACILITY SPECIALLY ENGINEERED FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MISSION, RATHER THAN USING ONLY THE MORE

GENERAL PURPOSE EQUIPMENT ON HAND. BECAUSE THE INSTALLATION WOULD BE DONE BY AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PERSONNEL, PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE NO OUTSIDE LABOR AND THUS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED ON AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS WITHOUT ANY FURTHER FUNDS BEING APPROPRIATED. THE CONTEMPLATED ADDITIONAL 1.5 MILLION DOLS. OF EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PROCURED FROM A GENERAL PURCHASES APPROPRIATION, WHICH IS NOT TIED TO A SPECIFIC PROJECT. HENCE, IN VIEW OF HIGH PRIORITY OF THIS PROJECT, IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT DESIRED FUNDS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE AND THAT EXISING GENERAL PURPOSE EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE USED. IN ABSENCE OF SOME SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL ACTION PROHIBITING SUCH A PROJECT (IT ALREADY HAS FULL APPROVAL AND SUPPORT IN DEFENSE PROGRAM), WE SEE NO PROSPECTS OF EMBARRASSMENT DUE TO INABILITY TO GO FORWARD ONCE THE SHAH APPROVES.

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3. BELIEVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL ANSWER YOUR OTHER QUESTIONS AND PERHAPS CLARIFY BACKGROUND OF THIS PROPOSAL. AIR FORCE GROUND-TO-AIR COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND NEAR EAST NOW DEPEND HEAVILY UPON THE STATION AT INCIRLIK, TURKEY, EQUIPMENT OF WHICH IS BECOMING OBSOLETE AND WILL SOON HAVE TO BE REPLACED AND UPDATED. MEDITERRANEAN AREA AIR-TO-GROUND AND OTHER AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS IN AREA WERE FORMERLY SUPPORTED,

IN ADDITION TO INCIRLIK, BY FACILITIES AT SAN PABLO, SPAIN, AND WHEELUS AIR BASE, LIBYA. SAN PABLO WAS CLOSED OUT FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY, AND OUR BASE IN LIBYA WAS LOST, LEAVING MEDITERRANEAN AREA SUPPORT DEPENDENT ENTIRELY ON INCIRLIK AND A STATION IN ENGLAND. TURKISH SENSITIVITY TO US MILITARY OPERATIONS IN TURKEY INDICATED THE DESIRABILITY OF CONSIDERING OTHER LOCATIONS, RATHER THAN FURTHER INVESTMENT AT INCIRLIK WHERE AIR FORCE OPERATIONS WERE ALREADY UNDESIRABLY DEPENDENT UPON CONTINUING TURKISH GOOD WILL. WHILE POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTES FOR INCIRLIK WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION, CLOSURE OF KAGNEW STATION WAS DECIDED UPON, THUS ADDING THE VERY HIGH PRIORITY MYSTIC STAR PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENT TO THE EXISTING AERONAUTICAL REQUIREMENT. POTENTIAL SITES FOR MYSTIC STAR WERE REVIEWED, AND SIX LOCATIONS WERE STUDIED IN DEPTH. OF THESE, TWO (I.E., DIEGO GARCIA AND THE SEYCHELLES) WERE REJECTED BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT COVER THE MEDITERRANEAN/SOUTHEAST EUROPE AREA. (ALL LOCATIONS WERE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR RELIABILITY IN A RADIUS OF 1500 TO 1800 MILES, BUT THIS OBVIOUSLY ELIMINATED SEYCHELLES AND DIEGO GARCIA.) BAHRAIN WAS GEOGRAPHICALLY ACCEPTABLE, BUT APPEARED VERY QUESTIONABLE

POLITICALLY. THE THREE POTENTIALLY DESIRABLE LOCATIONS WERE CRETE, IRAN, AND TURKEY. CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO COLLOCATION OF THE RECEIVER PORTION OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY WITH THE USAF SECURITY SERVICE ACTIVITY AT IRAKLION, CRETE, BUT A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE AREA REVEALED WE WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN ACQUIRING THE NECESSARY LAND FOR A TRANSMITTING FACILITY SINCE NO GOVERNMENT LAND APPEARED TO BE AVAILABLE. WHILE

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COLLOCATION OF THE RECEIVING FACILITY WITH THE EXISTING STATION WAS POSSIBLE, IT IS ALREADY OVERCROWDED. HENCE, CONSIDERATION OF THIS ALTERNATIVE WAS DROPPED.

4. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MADE MODERNIZATION OF INCIRLIK UNDESIRABLE LEFT TURKEY AS A VERY SECONDARY ALTERNATIVE. MEANWHILE, INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY TEHRAN AND THE CONCEPT OF A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE IRANIANS LED US TO CONCLUDE THAT IRAN WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE LOCATION, BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. WE BELIEVE THAT INCREASED US FACILITIES IN GREECE RESULTING FROM HOMEPORTING AND OTHER TACTICAL REQUIREMENTS MAKE GREEK CHOICE CONSIDERABLY LESS DESIRABLE THAN IRAN. THUS, ALTHOUGH LOCATIONS IN EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY, MOST SPECIFICALLY CRETE OR INCIRLIK, ARE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES,

THEY ARE FAR LESS ATTRACTIVE OR POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICAL-
LY SOUND THAN A JOINT ACTIVITY IN IRAN.

5. WE WOULD ADD THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR STATION MANNING
DOES REFLECT REALISTIC RANGE NEC
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